

Zoning Rewrite, Voting Age Top City Council's Agenda

by Diane Oberg

At the Greenbelt City Council's last regular meeting of 2017 on December 11, council dealt with two longstanding issues: expressing its concerns with the draft zoning ordinance and reducing the minimum voting age to 16.

Zoning Rewrite

Council approved, with some editing, a letter drafted for council's signature by Terri Hrubby, acting director of planning and community development, outlining the city's concerns regarding the draft zoning ordinance. This is the last scheduled round of comments before the draft ordinance is officially sent to the county council. The deadline for submitting comments was Friday, December 15, so council had to finalize its comments at this meeting.

In addition to more specific changes in the draft zoning ordinance, there is also a change in the way many homes in Greenbelt will be referred to in the future. If this ordinance is passed, townhouses will no longer be referred to as townhouses; instead, they will be known as single family attached homes.

One major concern of both the

planning department and council is that the zoning rewrite is actually a covert rezoning, particularly in areas currently in the Residential Townhouse (R-T) zone. The rewrite would increase permissible density to 16.33 units per acre, which is significantly higher than in the existing R-T zone. The letter requests that the new Residential Single Family-A (RSF-A) be reduced to 12 dwelling units per acre.

Council had concerns regarding changes to the zoning process in the proposed law as well as specific details of zoning. First among these concerns is the elimination of the Residential Planned Community Zone (R-P-C) without also establishing a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone (NCOZ) for Greenbelt. The county planning board staff had committed to working with the city to develop this zone, which was to be included in the zoning ordinance. Now, however, the county is proposing the elimination of the R-P-C zone, which caps housing densities based on the residential superblocks that were part of the 1937 planned community. The letter stresses the city's belief that the NCOZ

must be included in the zoning ordinance while stating its willingness, if that cannot be accomplished, to consider the inclusion of the legacy R-P-C zone in the new zoning ordinance until the NCOZ can be established.

The letter objected to several aspects of the review of zoning issues. Specifically, the city wants to extend the new requirement for a pre-application neighborhood meeting, which the draft would require for zoning map amendments, special exceptions and major detailed site plans to include minor detailed plan projects.

In addition, the city requests that the requirement for a public hearing on proposed text amendments be reinstated. This was in the Module 3 draft but is not in the draft ordinance. The letter also raises several concerns about changes to the development review process that would reduce the city's ability to be aware of and have an opportunity to comment on proposed developments within the city limits. Therefore, the city requests that the thresholds for review of development

See **AGENDA**, page 9

Maglev Group May Prefer The Greenbelt Alignment

by James Giese

Kisha Brown, community and external affairs director for Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR), told the Prince George's County Council at a transportation briefing on October 17 that her group felt that the so-called Baltimore-Washington Parkway West maglev route would have the least impact upon Prince George's County because it is primarily underground. She also indicated to the council that the two Parkway routes, both of which run through Greenbelt in tunnels, were preferred over the Amtrak route which somewhat parallels the Amtrak railroad line through parts of Bowie.

Both Parkway routes, east and west, would tunnel 80 to 150 feet beneath homes in Greenbelt East and the Eleanor Roosevelt High School property. While the Parkway West route is proposed to emerge in the city's forest preserve from underground to a minimum of 18 feet above ground, Brown told Councilmember Todd Turner, whose district includes Greenbelt and Bowie, that the route would be totally underground in his district and planners could easily shift the emergence north into the

Beltville Agricultural Research Center.

At the beginning of the hearing, Council Chair Derrick Davis, who represents the eastern middle county in District 6, which is not directly affected by the train route proposal, noted that the council had last been given a presentation at a council retreat held in January and the SCMaglev environmental impact study review process now being conducted by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) had gotten way beyond "what we know." He said there was a need to catch up. He also noted that opposition to the project was high, while information about it was low.

Besides Brown, BWRR project director David Henley appeared before the council. All the councilmembers posed questions for the duo and expressed serious concerns about the project.

Brown expressed a need for ongoing public engagement, but some councilmembers criticized the MTA and other state officials for not attending the council briefing.

District 2 Councilmember Deni Taveras noted that while a part of the line would go through

her Adelphi, Hyattsville district, she didn't foresee a problem because it would go underground. However, she was concerned about the high cost and possible need for federal support when there were such great needs for funding for Metro.

Turner said he was disappointed and wondered why the council had not been involved earlier when BWRR obtained a franchise from the Maryland Public Service Commission and another from Baltimore City with none being sought from Prince George's or Anne Arundel

See **MAGLEV**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, January 1
City offices closed
Trash collection days rescheduled (see city ad for details)
Wednesday, January 3
8 p.m. Worksession with the Board of Elections, Community Center
Christmas tree pickup
available at posted locations through February 2.



PHOTO BY GEORGE MATHEWS

Officer Mike Apgar and his shopper stride through Target in search of the perfect gift. For the story and more photos go to page 12.

Top Stories of 2017

News Review writers contributing Top Stories include Deanna Dawson, Kathleen Gallagher, James Giese, Amy Hansen, Cathie Meetre and Diane Oberg.

City Election



Colin Byrd

The announcement by Councilmember Konrad Herling that he would not run for re-election ensured that there would be at least one new councilmember following the November elections. It has been many years since the city saw 13 candidates seeking a city council seat, although there had been similar numbers of candidates in the distant past. Such a large crowd of candidates raised concerns about possible recounts and creating challenges for groups holding candidate forums. After all the shouting was over, however, voters kept alive the streak of success for all incumbents seeking re-election and added Colin Byrd as the newest city councilmember.

FBI HQ Put on Hold

The General Services Administration (GSA) put a hold on the site selection process for a new FBI headquarters in March due to inadequate project funding and apparent lack of Trump Administration support. Greenbelt Metro Station was one of three sites being considered for the new facility. Noting that "The Hoover Building is crumbling around the FBI," Maryland Congressional representatives deplored the action upon learning of it in July, as did local officials. Further upsetting the city was a subsequent action by the Maryland Department of Transportation to cease planning for a Beltway interchange to the site. The city sent GSA a letter urging the site be considered for other government projects. In July and October, the Greenbelt City Council held worksessions to brainstorm other ideas for developing the site, including its possibility for a new Amazon.com second headquarters, but much of the discussion concerned the idea that the FBI headquarters facility is still greatly needed and the proposed location at the Greenbelt Metro Station is still the best location.

See **TOP STORIES**, page 7

Ad Rate Notice

Effective January 1, 2018, the price per inch of display advertising will increase by roughly 2 percent. This is the first increase since 2013 and is needed to offset increased costs.

The base price for display ads will increase to \$9.80, a 20-cent increase over the current rate.

The nonprofit rate will change to \$6.70, up from \$6.55.

Volume discounts are available. The 2018 schedule of discounts is available at Greenbeltnewsreview.com

Remembering Greenbelters Who Died in 2017

- Robin Pray Bailey, 55, August 17, 2017
Shirley Gray Bailey, 55, July 4, 2017
Georgina Baker, 87, August 27, 2017
Patricia “Pat” Jorgensen Ball, 82, February 7, 2017
Emily Bronstein, 75, May 26, 2017
Darwin Brooks, 72, June 30, 2017
Patricia Barrett Brown, 80, November 8, 2017
George G. Brunatti, 70, December 7, 2017
Phyllis S. Budin, 88, August 5, 2017
The Honorable Howard S. Chasanow, 79, April 2, 2017
Andrew Dale Collins, 40, September 18, 2017
Nadine Rolle Connor, 102, May 16, 2017
Frank Coorsen, 89, May 16, 2017
Colleen Courtney, 54, November 13, 2017
Bryan Dale Crick, 57, February 25, 2017
Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, 66, March 29, 2017
Daniel “Dan” Dudley Danaher, Jr., 74, September 30, 2017
Ralph Joseph Edinger, 87, July 16, 2017
Shirely Anne Egenreider, 88, September 8, 2017
Robert “Bob” Samuel Eubanks, 83, May 27, 2017
Laurence “Bucky” William Fitzgerald III, 59, March 9, 2017
Eli Flam, 83, May 19, 2017
Donna K. Fluke, 77, January 26, 2017
Ronald Fluke, 77, February 5, 2017
Dr. Neil Gehrels, 64, February 6, 2017
Jacqueline “Jackie” Gray, 73, November 4, 2016
Ronald Hall, 69, June 13, 2017
Geneva L. Halsey, 85, June 24, 2017
John Hartnett, June 19, 2017
Jean Hastings, 74, September 3, 2017
Roger “Buck” Hill, March 20, 2017
Samuel Michael Hofberg, 94, September 24, 2017
Jacqueline “Miss Jackie” Holmes, January 8, 2017
Chanel Nicole “Nikki” Hugley, 35, March 17, 2017
James A. Iverson, 70, May 29, 2017
Marvin Jager, 89, September 27, 2017
Robert “Bob” Joseph Janus, 89, December 27, 2016
Thelma Louise Kennedy, 84, October 30, 2017
Mildred E. Horne Kern, 99, December 22, 2016
Eugene F. “Gene” Krebs, 94, August 6, 2017
Jack R. “Randy” Krob, 59, August 30, 2017
Dr. Herbert Lee Kyle, 86, February 5, 2017
Lanny LeForte, 72, May 21, 2017
Joseph Anthony Leverone, 56, April 24, 2017
Joan Janet Lloyd, 82, January 14, 2017
Mary Elizabeth Lowry, 104, February 27, 2017
Bruce Lloyd MacEwen, December 14, 2017
Michael Madden, 63, October 13, 2017
Thomas C. McArdle, 92, March 9, 2017
Bridget “Miss Bridget” McDermott, 87, September 1, 2017
Jack Logan Mills, 21, April 26, 2017
Thomas Paul Moran, 84, December 3, 2017
Ruth Adele Schwab Myers, 84, September 1, 2017
Rose, Myrick, January 3, 2017
George G. Nielsen, 90, October 5, 2017
Robert “Bobby” “Bob” O’Bryhim, 63, December 20, 2017
Keith Pendleton, 73, June 8, 2017
JoAnne “Jo” Pritchard, 87, September 16, 2017
Paul M. Rall, 85, October 22, 2017
Rose Remenick, 95, May 19, 2017
Carol Ann Sauls, 78, December 17, 2016
Mary Anne McAndrew Scott, 58, January 1, 2017
Colleen June Shafer, 88, January 14, 2017
John Shay Jr., 61, June 6, 2017
Maxine V. Smith, 94, October 2, 2017
Julia Stratchko, 86, September 26, 2017
Winifred Kemble Taylor, 75, March 19, 2017
Craig Tooley, 57, September 29, 2017
Marvin “Morgan” Torres, 47, June 8, 2017
Robert “Bobby” Turner, April 7, 2017
Ethel C. Warner, 98, November 8, 2016
Jacob LaRue Warner, 96, December 7, 2017
Nate Williams, December 24, 2016
Patricia “Pat” Salzman Wilson, 81, May 27, 2017
Robert “Bob” Wooddell, 94, September 10, 2017
Virginia Sowell Wyant, 81, March 20, 2017



Condolences to the family and friends of Greenbelt pioneer Bruce MacEwen who died December 14. He was an original Greenbelter who lived as a boy on Ridge Road.

Our sympathies also to the friends and family of Robert O’Bryhim who grew up in Greenbelt. He died suddenly on December 20.

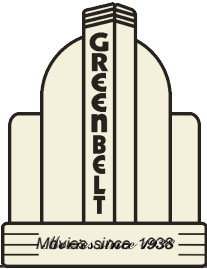
Congratulations to Quanasia T. Hill who was named to the Dean’s List at Chowan University for her stellar academic performance as a senior in mathematics.

Please share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Walking Club at Park

Greenbelt Park Walking Club will meet on Saturday, December 30 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join a 1.4 mile group walk along the road in Greenbelt Park. Improve your health by walking in the park. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area, call 301-344-3944 or visit nps.gov/gree for more information.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members always \$6.50!
Member kids always FREE!
Adults \$9, Senior/Student \$8, Members \$6.50, Kids \$6
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Members \$6.50, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES
Dec 29th - Jan 4th

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN
(PG) (CC) (105 mins)
Fri. 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 PM
Sat. 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 PM
Sun. 12:00, 2:45 (OC), 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:15, 7:45 PM
Tues. 5:15, 7:45 PM
Wed. 2:45, 5:15, 7:45 PM
Thurs. 5:15 PM

Family Fall Series:
HOWL’S MOVING CASTLE
(PG) (Dubbed in English)
(2004) (119 mins)
Sat. 11:00 AM

Monday Matinee:
PALM BEACH STORY
(1942) (88 mins) - Free!
Mon. 1:00 PM

MIYAZAKI: KINGDOM OF DREAMS AND MADNESS
(2013) (Subtitled in English)
(118 mins)
Thurs. 8:00 PM

The Old Curmudgeon



Poor dear... insists on celebrating the real millennium.
Originally published December 28, 2000

Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer’s name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



Greenbelt News Review

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15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com
Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662

STAFF

Matt Arbach, Mary Ann Baker, Cynthia Beck, Judy Bell, Judi Bordeaux, Melinda Brady, Jessi Britton, Arlene Clarke, Jill Connor, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Deanna Dawson, Angie Evans, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, James Giese, Bernadette Gormally, Jim Gray, Carol Griffith, Mary Halford, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Solange Hess, Peggy Higgins, Rebecca Holober, Larry Hull, Elizabeth Jay, Ginny Jones, Jeff Jones, Suzette Joyner, Jennifer Moser Jurling, Lesley Kash, Sue Krofchik, Sandra Lange, Sylvia Lewis, Jim Link, Marcie Lissauer, Chris Logan, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Joan Marionni, Kathleen McFarland, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Patricia Novinsky, Diane Oberg, Gail Phillips, Marylee Platt, Peter Reppert, JoEllen Sarff, Pat Scully, Lola Skolnik, Shayna Skolnik, Helen Sydavar, Joanne Tomikel, Nancy Tolzman, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Alan Turnbull, Lynn White, Janice Wolf, Karen Yoho, Ray Zammuto, Stan Zirkin and Dea Zugby.

CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: Karen Yoho circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
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Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

Maglev Safety, Noise

The tragic accident of an Amtrak train derailling (alleged human error and speeding on a curved section of track) in Washington state last week, and several freight train derailments during the past six months along the New Jersey and Philadelphia portions of the Northeast Corridor (NEC) where both freight and commuter/passenger service were disrupted for several days, highlights the need for alternative rail transportation. A SCMaglev line

(if built to New York City from Washington, D.C.) would follow an entirely new elevated right-of-way (tunneled underground in some areas), thus separated from surface level NEC freight, commuter and Amtrak traffic.

With its overall fast and low profile, the SCMaglev is less susceptible to high winds and major snow/ice events than wheels-on-rails trains. It will travel within a U-shaped concrete guideway

See **LETTERS**, page 4

Community Events

Events at the Library

All Prince George’s County Memorial Library System branches will be closed from Sunday, December 31 through Tuesday, January 2 for the New Year holiday. The Greenbelt Branch Library will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, at 10 a.m.

Storytimes

Wednesday, January 3: Ready 2 Read Storytime, ages 3 to 5, 10:15 a.m., limit 20 people; Ready 2 Read Storytime, ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 20 people.

Thursday, January 4: Ready 2 Read Storytime, ages newborn to 2, 10:15 & 11:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s) or caregiver(s); Ready 2 Read Storytime, ages 2 to 3, 4:15 p.m., limit 20 people.

Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the information desk immediately prior to each session to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Sunday, December 31: 10:30 a.m. to noon, Deaf Group Weekly Meeting. Deaf and hearing people socialize together using sign language. Newcomers welcome. Closing at 6 p.m. to prepare for the New Year’s Gala starting at 6:30 p.m. with a three-course meal. The party starts at 9 p.m. and brings in the New Year with joy and friendship. THE ROCK-ITS & Friends perform – the ultimate party rock band and perfect for a festive New Year’s Eve. Classics from pop, funk, rock, country, disco, R&B and soul.

Monday, January 1: Closed for New Year’s Day.

Tuesday, January 2: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The New Old Jamboree hosted by Ruthie and the Wranglers – new songs, old songs and featuring special guests.

Wednesday, January 3: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Transatlantic Crossing – fiddle tunes from both sides of the Atlantic, including toe-tapping Irish and Scottish jigs and reels, as well as New England and French-Canadian tunes.

Thursday, January 4: noon to 2 p.m. Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft. 7 to 10 p.m. Songwriters’ Association of Washington (SAW) – Open Mic with host Lynn Hollyfield. A new featured act will perform at 8 p.m.; the features are some tried and true songwriter’s, working on their craft and sharing their gifts to inspire all. Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., open mic 7 to 8 p.m., then 8:45 to 10 p.m.

Friday, January 5: 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jazz and blues piano by John Guernsey. From 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. hear the U-Liners, a socially conscious Americana band playing a wide variety of roots-rock including bluegrass, rock ’n’ roll, country, folk, swing, folk-rock, country-rock, blues, rhythm & blues, soul, and more.

Saturday, January 6: 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jazz and blues piano by John Guernsey. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Rock-A-Sonics, led by young phenom, Willie Barry. Playing a mix of authentic rockabilly, vintage country, and atomic age rock and roll, they will keep you dancing and shouting for more.

New Year’s Eve at The New Deal Café

Join the New Deal All Stars playing classic pop, funk, rock, disco, country and soul music for a New Year’s Eve celebration at the New Deal Café. Chef Carrie’s gala dinner includes vegan, gluten free and omnivore selections. A midnight champagne toast will be featured. For details and prices go to newdealcafe.com or call 301-474-5641 for more information.

Family Group Meets

Families Anonymous is a 12-step fellowship for people concerned about the use of mind-altering substances or related behavioral problems or a relative or friend. The group meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Step Club, 141 Centerway. See FamiliesAnonymous.org for more information.

World of Winter Birds At Greenbelt Park

Join a park ranger for a discussion on birds’ survival during the winter in the woods and fields of Greenbelt Park on Saturday, December 30 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the ranger station. Call 301-344-3944 or visit nps.gov/gree for more information.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will meet on Wednesday, January 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads. The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. For more information call 240-542-8625.

CARES Offers Free Babysitting Class

The course will run Saturday, January 6 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Springhill Lake Recreation Center Clubhouse. The course is targeted towards students ages 10 to 13. Students will learn responsibilities and safety regarding babysitting and handling emergency situations. Students should bring a pencil or pen. They will receive a packet of information, a certificate of completion and an opportunity to enroll in Greenbelt CARES Odd Jobs/Job bank.

Arts Program Jan. 7 Mixes Masterpieces

The Greenbelt Recreation Department Arts Program invites guests of all ages to attend a free Community Art Drop-In workshop with artist Racquel Keller on Sunday, January 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. The theme of the workshop is remixed masterpieces: start with an image of a famous painting, then use mixed media to transform the composition into a new work of art. This program takes place in Room 113 at the Community Center. All materials will be provided. No reservations are needed.

Museum Exhibit

While visiting, enjoy the Greenbelt Museum’s current Community Center exhibit, The Knowing Hands that Carve This Stone: The New Deal Art of Lenore Thomas Straus. Straus is best known locally as the creator of the iconic Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center and the impressive bas reliefs on the façade of the Community Center. The Museum’s historic house, located across the street at 10-B Crescent Road, will be open for tours from 1 to 5 p.m. There is a charge.

For more information about City of Greenbelt art programs, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts and follow Greenbelt Recreation ARTS on Facebook. Arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Art Share Program Friday, January 5

Local artists are invited to participate in a free Art Share at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 5, sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Department Arts Program. Art Shares are a new series of gatherings in which artists working in all media can meet up for a constructive, informal discussion of everyone’s work. Artists of all experience levels are welcome. Please bring one to three pieces of your work. The upcoming Art Share will take place in Room 113 at the Community Center.

For additional information, contact Amanda Demos Larsen at alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov. Visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts to learn about additional Arts Program activities and follow Greenbelt Recreation ARTS on Facebook. Arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Environmental Issues Examined by GCAN

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will host a special presentation on Environmental Issues in the 2018 General Assembly at its monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 114.

Mark Posner, legislative chair of the Maryland Sierra Club, will discuss the organization’s priorities in the 2018 session, including protecting Maryland’s forests, banning foam food containers and loose fill packaging, Metro-dedicated public transportation funding and reforming Public Service Commission reviews of proposed new gas infrastructure.

Posner will also discuss clean energy bills and the status of Maryland’s offshore wind power projects.

The last portion of the evening includes announcements and updates on local and national issues GCAN is following. For more information contact Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234. GCAN is a project of Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society ([CHEARS](http://CHEARS.org/gcan/)) chears.org/gcan/.

Project Tutor: Free Tutoring Program

Students in elementary and middle schools in the Greenbelt area are invited to sign up for a free 12-week tutoring program. The Better Place, Inc., a nonprofit organization, will be implementing Project Tutor from January 13 to April 28 at the Greenbelt Library. Meetings will be held on Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. The youth of the Greenbelt community are invited to help support their peers in becoming career and college ready.

Students from middle and high schools can receive community service hours by signing up as volunteer tutors and will help promote peer-to-peer tutoring. Interested volunteers will be trained as tutors on Saturday, January 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the small meeting room at the Library. Tutoring will begin Saturday, January 20. Contact Chris Person by email chriswperson@yahoo.com to sign up for tutoring or to be trained as a volunteer tutor. Project Tutor: Guardians of Greenbelt is funded and sponsored by the Greenbelt Community Foundation.

Utopia Film Festival

Presents

“Connected by Coffee,” “Jim Morris: Life Long Fit,” “I am REVA,” “Anxiety,” and “Death is a Salesman”

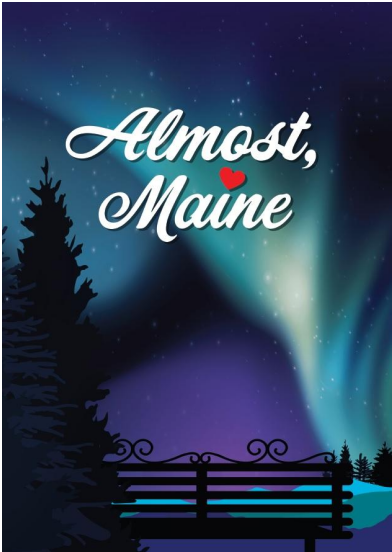
Sunday, Dec. 31st, Wed., Jan 3rd, & Fri., the 5th
Beginning at 8 PM

Happy New Year from the
Utopia Film Festival Committee!

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Arts Center
COMING SOON

ALMOST, MAINE



by John Cariani
Directed by Bob Kleinberg
January 26 - February 17

Ticket prices: \$22 General Admission, \$20 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$12 Youth (12 and under with adult)

PLEASE GIVE TO OUR LIGHTING CAMPAIGN
LET THERE BE LIGHTS
<https://igg.me/at/lightGAC>

COMING SOON

AUDITIONS: Baskerville – Jan 2 - 3
GAC Cleanout Weekend: Jan 13 - 14
Angel Street – March 2 - 24

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org



Greenbelt Access Television
2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Happy New Year from the
Greenbelt Access Television Board of Directors and Staff

Free and Open to the Public
Orientation Class
Thursday, Jan. 4th from 7 – 10 PM

Members Only – Reservation required
Please visit the “class” page on our website
for the three-month schedule of classes too
numerous to list here!

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19
For our schedule, visit: www.greenbeltaccessstv.org and click on “Channel”

Obituaries

Bruce MacEwen



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MACEWEN FAMILY

Bruce MacEwen

Bruce Lloyd MacEwen, husband of Charlotte Ann Allen MacEwen for 51 years, died on December 14, 2017. Mr. MacEwen was an original Greenbelter, moving into the new city as a small child in 1937 with his parents. He lived in two consecutive Greenbelt houses in what is now GHI, on 13 and 16 Courts of Ridge Road. He attended elementary school in Greenbelt, moving to College Park in his early teens. His father, Lloyd MacEwen, was a founding member of and active in the Greenbelt American Legion and Mr. MacEwen himself played baseball in Little League. In 1952, he won the city's Fourth of July essay contest explaining why he could thank God that he is an American.

Mr. MacEwen's mother, Lucille Virginia Lochte MacEwen; his father, Lloyd Bruce MacEwen; and his brother, Dr. E. Gregory MacEwen, preceded him in death. His two daughters, Pamela Ann MacEwen Dodd (Richard) and Samantha Ann MacEwen Kutz (Edward) are grateful and deeply honored to have had him as their Dad.

He will be missed by many, including his three sisters, Janet Beverly MacEwen MacBride (John), Lucille Elaine MacEwen Clore and Grace MacEwen Hoffman (Steven); his brother, Commander USN Retired George Bailey MacEwen (Laura); and his late father's wife, Irmela Marta AnneMarie Gille MacEwen.

Mr. MacEwen adored his four grandchildren, Dustin Terrill Kutz (Jessica Nixon), Savannah Nicholle Kutz Long (Joseph), Ryan Richard Dodd and Rayden Richard Dodd, who will continue to cherish the many laughs and memories made. His two great-grandchildren, Shawn Isaiah Nixon and Charlotte Rose Kutz, will remember how every day with Pop Pop was truly a happy day.

Mr. MacEwen was a long time and enthusiastic participant of National Institutes of Health's Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA) which started in 1958 and is America's longest-running scientific study of human aging. Mr. MacEwen was re-

cently diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, and with the help of the specialized staff of the Advanced Lung Disease Program at Inova Fairfax Hospital courageously battled the disease.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 30, 2017, at Emory United Methodist Church, 3799 Church Road, Ellicott City, Md., at noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in Mr. MacEwen's name to further the research for the BLSA (nia.nih.gov/about/donations) or to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (pulmonaryfibrosis.donorpages.com/Tribute/BruceMacEwen/). Online condolences and fond memories of Mr. MacEwen may be offered to the family at moneyandking.com

Robert O'Bryhim



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE O'BRYHIM FAMILY

Robert O'Bryhim

Robert "Bobby" "Bob" O'Bryhim of Centerville, Md., died on December 20, 2017, quickly and unexpectedly, after a 12-hour shift of the nursing work he loved. Born February 9, 1954 in Washington, D.C., to the late Robert Allen and Susan Evelyn O'Bryhim, he spent his youth in Greenbelt.

Mr. O'Bryhim lived on Hillside Road until after his graduation from high school in 1972.

Funny, kind and friendly to all, he was a favorite among friends and teammates at Greenbelt Junior High School, many of whom still live in Greenbelt.

Trained in welding at Bladensburg High School, Mr. O'Bryhim worked many years in the construction business. Then, after working his way through nursing school at the University of Maryland, he earned his nursing degree in 1995. He excelled as an intensive care nurse at Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC). Recognized as one of their most beloved nurses, he was cherished by his colleagues, patients and their family members for his gentle sense of humor, optimistic outlook, compassion and unsurpassed generosity. In 2012 he won the Daisy Award recognizing his clinical care and compassion.

He loved gardening and sharing the bounties of his garden with friends and community. He was an accomplished guitarist who over the years mentored beginning guitar players. His dogs were devoted and very special to him.

Mr. O'Bryhim is survived by his girlfriend, Jeanne Wolfe; his sister, JoAnn Krug; his brother, James Allen O'Bryhim; his dog Grady; and his many friends, who loved him dearly. His sister Mary Lou O'Bryhim predeceased him. A memorial will be held on Thursday, January 4 at 3 p.m. in the Garden Café at AAMC. Donations on Mr. O'Bryhim's behalf can be made to the AAMC's Grow a Nurse Program at <https://give.aahs.org/growanurse>.



Letters continued

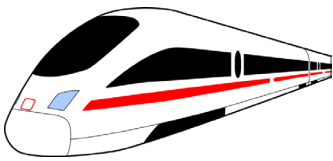
so derailments cannot occur. The SCMaglev has a long aerodynamic nose which lessens air pressure changes as the train egresses from tunnel to above ground. No sonic boom is created. There is a 'whoosh' sound for only a second, hardly discernible within the noise of adjacent Baltimore-Washington Parkway traffic, for example.

SCMaglev is proven commercially. It has been for several years, after over 50 years of developmental technology. Google the YouTube videos; the Shanghai China maglev and Japan's Central Railway maglev are operational with thousands of riders daily.

Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental Justice are incorrect in stating the SCMaglev will compete for financial resources needed for upgrading the NEC. In 2010 the NEC Infrastructure Master Plan was completed and it recommended \$44 billion for operational and capital upgrades through 2030. This plan made no mention of SCMaglev. There are no plans for diverting federal funds from the NEC upgrade to development of a SCMaglev. In the post environmental impact statement, a one-year phase we are entering now, half of the funding will be assistance from Japan, a leading developer of SCMaglev technology. The other half will be from private funding and revenue generated from ridership.

SCMaglev is not meant to replace or compete with Amtrak and commuter rail. There will always be a need for rail routes with multiple station stops. Maglev ridership fares will be comparable to Amtrak fares and commuter airline flight fares to NYC. These take three to five hours from downtown Washington to New York factoring in time getting to and through airports. The maglev will take one hour.

Robert Snyder



Hold the Baloney

Usually I relish the critical stylings of Jim Link, but the gratuitous helping of political horseradish with his take on The Greatest Showman left me running for the exit. Is an injection of political self-gratification best placed in a movie review? I like bologna, but put it between some bread next time.

Maureen Thomas

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
Happy birthday Reverend Fay!

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



December 31 10 a.m.
"Kwanzaa Celebration"

Members of the Congregation; with Carla Miller, DMRE, and Mary Tyrle Rooker, Worship Associate

Celebrate Kwanzaa with members of the congregation.

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff, Pastor



Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:00 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS
Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Come worship God with us!
Sunday School 9:45AM
Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org



City Information

GREENBELT COMMUNITY PLEDGE

"The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate people of many cultures, faiths, and races living together. By sharing together all are enriched.

We pledge to foster a community which is respectful, safe, and fair for all people."

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 1 in observance of the New Year's Holidays.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of January 1
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday
There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, January 5.

GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Monday, January 1.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND RFQ FOR RECRUITMENT SERVICES

The City of Greenbelt, Maryland requests qualifications from experienced management consultants for recruitment services. The full Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") may be obtained upon request from the City Manager's Office, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or at www.greenbeltnmd.gov. Responses to this RFQ must be received in the City Manager's Office in a sealed envelope marked "Police Chief Recruitment Services RFQ" no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 5, 2018. The City reserves the right to reject any and all responses, in whole or in part, for any reason that the City deems to be in its best interests. The City encourages all minority, women and handicapped owned businesses to submit a response. For further information concerning the RFQ, contact Mary Johnson, Director of Human Resources, either by e-mail at majohnson@greenbeltnmd.gov or by phone at 240-542-2023.

GREENBELT RECREATION ON-LINE REGISTRATION WILL BE DOWN FOR ABOUT A WEEK BEGINNING ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

In order to better serve our community the Greenbelt Recreation Department is implementing a significant upgrade to class registration and facility reservation software. Due to this maintenance:

- Online registration will not be available beginning Saturday, January 6
- Walk-in registrations can be made at any Recreation Department facility
- No credit cards can be processed during this time

The system upgrade is expect to take about a week. Our staff will be working to make the upgrade as quickly as possible. Updates on our progress will be provided on the City website, Facebook and Twitter once the work is completed.

If you have any concerns or questions please call:
Youth Center: 301-397-2200 or email cpracht@greenbeltnmd.gov.

Community Center: 301-397-2208 or email rcampbell@greenbeltnmd.gov

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center: 301-397-2204 or email snoaman@greenbeltnmd.gov

We apologize for the inconvenience.



GREENBELT ART SHARE

**Friday, January 5 at 7pm
Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road, Room 113**

Local artists are invited to participate in a free Art Share, a new program of the Greenbelt Recreation Department Arts Program. Artists working in all media can meet up for a constructive, informal discussion of everyone's work,. For additional information, contact Amanda Demos Larsen at alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov

MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 1-5

Tuesday, January 2 at 7pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00pm, **EXECUTIVE SESSION** at Community Center to discuss appointment of new City Solicitor. Please see notice below.

Wednesday, January 3 at 8:00pm, **WORK SESSION w/ Board of Elections** at Community Center 15 Crescent Road.

The schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018 in Room 201 of the Multi-Purpose Room of the Community Center at 7pm to discuss the appointment, employment and compensation, of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction.

The purpose of this meeting will be to: discuss the appointment, employment and compensation of the new City Solicitor.

**The public may attend the Work Session of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session on Wednesday January 3, 2018, at 7pm.*

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Committee.

For information on how to apply call 301-474-8000.

Christmas Tree Collection

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will pick up trees at the locations listed below and process them through the wood chipper. The chips will be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please bring trees to any of the following areas up until February 2, 2018.

GHI
Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)
Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)
Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)
Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)
Eastway and Crescent Road (corner)
Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)
Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)
Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)
Parkway (corner across from Community Church)
Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)
Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court area (area between courts)
Boxwood - Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)
Lakewood - Greenhill Road and Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)
Charlestowne Village and Charlestowne North
Property adjacent to Attick Park
University Square - In front of swimming pool
Lakeside North - Near Swimming pool
Springhill Lake - Springhill Lake (community building)
Greenbriar
Between buildings 7708 and 7710, Hanover Parkway
Between buildings 7728 and 7730, Hanover Parkway
Between buildings 7826 and 7828, Hanover Parkway
Between buildings 8003 and 8009, Mandan Road
Glen Oaks
Between buildings 7903 and 7905, Mandan Road
Between buildings 7509 and 7511, Mandan Road
Hunting Ridge - Between buildings 6936 and 6978, Hanover Pkwy
Windsor Green -Court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff
Greenbrook Village and Estates
Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr. and Mathew Drive
Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Drive
In front of barricade at Mandan Road and Mathew Street
Greenwood Village
Opposite 8175 Mandan Terrace
Opposite 7646 Mandan Road
Opposite 7648 Mandan Road
Greenspring and Greenspring II
Southwest corner of Megan Lane and Craddock Road
Park area between 7926 and 8006 Greenbury Drive
Corner of Spring Manor Drive and Springshire Way
Open area between 6519 and 6515 Springcrest Drive
Belle Point
Corner of Vanity Fair Drive and Prince James Way
Open area between 7800 and 7801 Vanity Fair Drive
Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive
Greenbelt Village
Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Drive
Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive
Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Drive

**Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook!
@cityofgreenbelt**

COFFEE with the CHIEF



**Tuesday, January 9
5:30-7:00pm
New Deal Cafe**

Come out and meet Greenbelt Interim Chief of Police Tom Kemp and members of the Police Department in a casual, cordial and informative environment. Have a cup of coffee or tea and engage in positive, productive discussions where concerns can be shared and question can be answered.

**We look forward to
spending some time
with you!**

This holiday season, consider making a Charitable Donation to City of Greenbelt's Agency Funds

Consider donating at this time of year to the Agency Funds, which helps our neighbors in need. Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes.

**Donation areas include
the following:**

The Recreation Department: funds used to support camp scholarships and special events.

Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau: the funds provide refreshments for the counseling sessions.

The Good Samaritan Fund: funds provide for out-of-town persons stranded in Greenbelt and monies for groceries for low income families with whom CARES is working.

Emergency Assistance Fund: funds assist Greenbelt residents at-risk of eviction.

Advisory Committee on Education (ACE): fund initiatives such as ACE scholarships.

The Greenbelt Theater: funds help keep the theater open.

Spay and Neuter Clinic Agency Fund: funds used to purchase supplies and equipment to perform cat and dog neuters.

Checks may be made payable to the City of Greenbelt. Donors may direct their donation toward one or more of the agency funds. Donations are tax deductible and upon request a letter acknowledging your gift will be issued.

**Thank you to all
residents who have
contributed in years
past. Happy Holidays!**

**and invites to you to
come to the Mall and take advantage of
the thousands of items
reduced for end of the year savings!**



6000 GREENBELT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770 (301) 345-1500
Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm, Dec 31st 10 am - 9 pm, Jan 1st 10 am – 6 pm
www.BeltwayPlazaMall.com, Follow us on Twitter; Like us on Facebook

TOP STORIES continued from page 1

Management Turnover

Several city employees, including the city manager, the director of the Department of Planning and Community Development and the city clerk announced their retirements in 2017. Michael McLaughlin, a 37-year employee who served as city manager for over 20 years, retired shortly thereafter having stayed on to assist in the transition. City Clerk Cindy Owens and Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze retired June 30. City Manager Nicole Ard replaced McLaughlin, coming on board on January 17. Ard oversaw the selection of Bonita Anderson as the new city clerk. The appointments of these two women, both African American, increased the diversity of the city manager's office. At year's end, two department head positions, police chief and director of planning and community development, remain open after the retirement of Chief James Craze in November 2016 and Celia Craze in June.

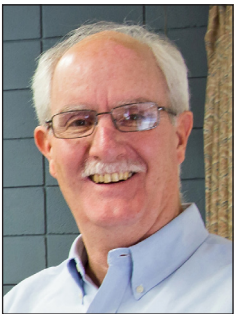


PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Michael McLaughlin

Greenbelt's Ongoing 80th Anniversary Celebration

A year-long celebration of Greenbelt's 80th anniversary started this summer with the presentation of Chris Cherry's play, *The Cookie Caper*, a comic mystery performed by the Creative Kids Camp. The play examined several key pieces of Greenbelt pioneer life and related them to the present day. Cherry is Recreation Department's Performing Arts and the City's 80th Anniversary Coordinator. The celebration is spread out over a year, Cherry explained, because it took that long for people to move into the new city. Other events included a sold-out concert coordinated by Cherry called *Here To Stay – The Music of Greenbelt Pioneers*. The event featured music of the thirties and forties, incorporating 1930s books and a display case highlighting Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Greenbelt in 1937. Another key piece of the celebration was the *News Review's* own documentary, *Defending Utopia: The Greenbelt News Review at 80*, by local film maker Susan Gervasi. The film highlights the significance of the newspaper to both this city and the nation.

Rails and Roads

Already a major crossroads, Greenbelt could get a lot more traffic if Governor Larry Hogan has his way. In a September press release Hogan announced a \$9 billion project to add four toll lanes to the Maryland Beltway and I-270 and to add two lanes to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway after the National Park Service transfers its portion to the state. "We were caught off guard," Mayor Emmett Jordan said. "We were very shocked and concerned about the proposal." Critics of the project believe it will do little to ease traffic in the long term; the expanded highways will become congested again.

Another surprise was a proposal to run a super-conducting magnetic levitation (SCMaglev) rail line under homes in Greenbelt East and Eleanor Roosevelt High School and that will possibly pop out of the ground in the city's forest preserve. The proposed builder of the train, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) first initiated efforts to build the line in 2014 by seeking to obtain an abandoned railroad franchise. Hogan obtained a federal grant a year later for an environmental impact study (EIS) and preliminary engineering. The matter was not brought to the attention of city officials and residents until BWRR made a presentation to city council at an October worksession. A week later, council expressed opposition

See TOP STORIES, page 8

Contracts for City Website, Infrastructure Study OK'd

by Diane Oberg

At its December 11 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council received two petitions regarding cell towers, approved staff recommendations to contract with specified vendors to rebuild the city's website and assess the current state of all facilities maintained by the city, and approved a new logo for the recreation department. Two other issues, the county zoning rewrite and legislation to implement changing the voting age in municipal elections to 16 are covered in a separate story.

Website

Council unanimously approved the recommendation from Beverly Palau, public information and communications coordinator, to contract with Granicus to rebuild the city's website to improve accessibility and usability on all platforms, including desktop, mobile and tablets. The current website was created by CivicPlus roughly five years ago. While Palau said that the CivicPlus product has served the city well, the site needs to be refreshed to reflect improved technology and changing user needs.

City staff looked at four different providers specializing in local government website design. The vendors demonstrated their designs and content management systems for the city but the search soon narrowed to the two providers that currently provide some services to the city: CivicPlus and Granicus.

Palau said that by selecting Granicus, the city will be able to incorporate an electronic agenda product that works with the video streaming and on-demand system that the city is already using. In addition, she noted that by selecting this vendor, the city will be able to provide an enhanced citizen request tracker and easier social media integration, and improve accessibility and searchability of the documents on the website.

The proposed products are also fully compliant with federal standards for accessibility to the visually impaired.

Council unanimously approved Palau's recommendation to contract with Granicus including subscribing to their GovDelivery

system where users can sign up to be automatically notified when documents within certain categories are added to the website.

The cost of the recommended product including GovDelivery is \$22,999. The current budget allocates \$25,000 for website improvements. The funding will come from the public, educational and governmental (PEG) fee collected under the city's cable franchise agreements, not from tax revenues.

Infrastructure

A recommendation from the Public Works Department to purchase Dude Solutions, Inc's Capital Forecast program plus technical services for roughly \$25,000 faced tougher opposition. It was eventually approved by an unusually close 4-3 vote, where even some of those voting to approve the purchase had concerns. The contract will help the city plan for future costs of maintaining its facilities, many of which are aging.

Under the contract, Dude Solutions will spend three to five days onsite examining the city's facilities, then will work offsite to complete the compilation of information and load it into the Capital Forecast software.

Among the issues to be examined are a facility condition assessment and a preventive maintenance program. Staff recommended making the purchasing under a National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) contract, similar to when the city purchases vehicles by piggybacking on larger government's contracts. In his memorandum to the city manager, Brian Kim, assistant director of public works, said that NJPA vets equipment and services and purchases are competitively solicited. He noted that the city already uses Dude Solution's Facility Dude product to manage work orders.

While most councilmembers and City Treasurer Jeffrey Williams agreed that this kind of information is sorely needed to improve the city's ability to ad-

equately assess the funds that should be set aside to fund infrastructure maintenance, there was significant concern regarding some aspects of the proposal. Councilmember Judith Davis and Williams both professed concern that the city has not been budgeting sufficient funds for facility maintenance and wanted better data feeding into the upcoming Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Edward Putens questioned the company's ability to provide an adequate assessment with just three to five days on site. Kim was unable to respond to questions about how many engineers and other experts would be involved in the on-site assessment. These experts will not test the equipment, but will take pictures and gather other information, spurring further skepticism from Putens and Roberts. Putens said that he would rather spend twice as much on a contract and "do the job right."

Councilmember Colin Byrd was concerned about whether a company called Dude Solutions had sufficient commitment to gender diversity. Kim pointed out that the department already uses company products for managing work orders and has been very satisfied with their work. Davis noted that city contract language includes a number of items that contractors must abide, which she thought would address this concern.

Councilmember Leta Mach confirmed with Kim that Public Works staff would not accept the work as completed and submit the final payment until they were satisfied that it met the contract requirements.

Recreation Logo

Council approved a new logo and tag line for the Recreation Department that was developed under a contract with LMD Agency. City staff will now work with the vendor to develop templates and guidelines for the

See WEBSITE, page 9

THE BETTER PLACE

Project Tutor: Guardians of Greenbelt
'Empowering Youth to Serve and Support Community'
Sponsored by the Greenbelt Community Foundation

The Better Place, Inc. is launching a tutoring program in the community of Greenbelt. From January to April 2018 we will provide tutoring services at the **Greenbelt Library once a week on Saturdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm for youth in elementary to middle school K-8th grade.**

Contact Mr. Chris Person by email at chriswperson@yahoo.com to sign your child up for tutoring or to serve as a volunteer tutor.

Youth volunteers, 6th-12th grade, **interested in earning student service hours** can be trained as tutors to help us tutor 10-15 youth at a time at the Greenbelt Library. Currently **we need 3-4 volunteers.** Contact Mr. Person for more info. **Must attend training to serve as a tutor.**

Training for volunteer tutors is Saturday, January 13th at Greenbelt Library from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Dates for tutoring schedule begin on / end on:

- January 20th, 27th
- February 3rd, 17th, 24th
- March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
- April 14th, 21st, & 28th

The Better Place, Inc.
'A World where Youth and Families Thrive'
PO Box 2708
Hyattsville, Maryland 20784
thebetterplace@gmail.com
www.thebetterplaceinc.org

DONATE TO PROJECT TUTOR / THE BETTER PLACE, INC.
<https://www.gofundme.com/tbp-project-tutor-initiative>

LOST DOG

LOST 12/6/17 *

DO NOT CHASE, APPROACH OR CALL OUT TO HIM! PLEASE CALL ASAP

518-366-8119

MAGLEV from page 1
counties. (It was later noted that state law provides for only the state and Baltimore City to grant railroad franchises.)

Turner also asked if the Prince George’s County Planning Department was involved. Transportation Planning Supervisor Tom Masog was at the meeting and responded that there had been limited engagement at two to three meetings last winter, plus attendance at the public meetings held. He noted that this proposal was not on the county master plan.

Turner also criticized the proposal for not benefitting the county because there were no stops proposed in the county.

It was then Brown told Turner that her group preferred a route through Greenbelt. Councilmember Mel Franklin from south county District 9 asked the BWRR representatives if they would oppose state legislation to take away the company’s right to eminent domain (power to condemn land for public use). Henley told Turner that the right for eminent domain was something that came along with the franchise and the company was not interested in using it, instead acquiring property “the old-fashioned way” by negotiated purchase, if needed. But Brown responded specifically to Turner’s question that BWRR would have to see the legislation proposed before commenting on it.

Expressing the belief that there were no benefits to Prince George’s County, Franklin told Brown that she “has a tough one to sell.” Brown responded that there was a lot of misinformation about the project and when she explains at the informational meetings what the development would do, attendees develop a new appreciation for the project. It was then she noted that the Parkway West route would have no impact because it was all underground.

Representing a district that runs south of Greenbelt from New Carrollton to College Park, District 3 Councilmember and Vice-chair Dannielle Glaros said her district would be the most affected and disagreed that building underground would result in no impact. Her constituents were asking, “Who will buy my house with a tunnel under it?” She noted the route would impact residents by vibration underground, and needed surface structures. Also, she noted that the route does not follow the Parkway from Greenbelt to Washington.

Glaros noted that the technology had been around for 40 years without a successful commercial venture and feared that newer technology would supersede it, likening it to the Concorde airplane.

District 7 Councilmember Karen Toles’ district will not be directly affected, but she said she stood beside Glaros in opposition. She noted her district had five out of 15 county Metro stations and they were in need of greater funding. Also, she felt the vibrations from the Metro line near her house.

Andrea Harrison, whose District 5 extends from Bladensburg to Mitchellville, asked what tax benefits the proposed rail line would provide the county and the state. Henley said he would have to get back to her on that question.

See MAGLEV, page 11

Top Ten Stories of 1967

Fifty years ago, it seemed everyone in the city was engaged in a year-long running battle with developer Charles Bresler. The suit Bresler had brought against the News Review for libel the previous year had failed to endear him to the city and may have influenced his tangling multiple times with local organizations with only one partial victory. During the year Spiro T. Agnew (remember him?) also stripped Bresler of a political appointment. Ironically, the role he lost was associated with the status as a ‘limited public figure’ significant to the ultimate rejection of his libel suit by the Supreme Court some years later. The same issue (December 28, 1967) announces that the Prince George’s County Circuit Court date for Bresler’s \$2M suit was set for January 3, 1968. Though nobody would know it for three long years, history was in the making.

Ten Top Stories of 1967

- Following a protest by nearly 500 Greenbelt residents at a public gathering, newly-elected Governor Spiro T. Agnew relieves Charles S. Bresler of his responsibilities with respect to liaison and grants concerning Prince Georges and Montgomery, reversing his previous appointment as the governor’s representative to these counties. The city council had charged Bresler with failing to live up to his promises as a developer citing his violation of the Charlestowne tract covenants and agreement:

- GHI program for construction of four free-standing larger homes arouses controversy centering over determination of resale price policy. Controversy spills over into annual GHI election when an opposition group tries unsuccessfully to defeat a ticket composed of incumbents Charles Schwan, John O’Reilly, Norman Weyel and Jim Smith and Associate Josephine Seay.

- City acquires 22.2 acres of parkland around Greenbelt Lake in condemnation proceedings, after owners (Crescent Leasing Corporation and Charles Bresler and associates) decide not to challenge city’s need for parkland. Federal open space grant of \$205,429 helps to meet half the cost of the land. Council approves plans for municipal service building on three acres of this land.

City adopts \$696,200 budget for 1967-68, calling for the low-

est tax rate in its history, \$0.87 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is 12 cents below the 1966-67 tax rate.

- County commissioners, after hearing objections of city council, Greenbelt Homes, Inc., and Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt, deny request of owner of parcel 15 (Charles Bresler, Theodore Lerner, and associates) for high-density apartment and commercial zoning. The 32-acre tract, bordering the Capital Beltway between Greenbelt Lake and Greenbelt Rd., was the original choice of county school board for a senior high school.

- Civil rights issues come to the fore as city council rejects compulsory system of permits for meetings and parades and approves voluntary adoption of non-segregated rental practices by Greenbelt apartments.

- Greenbelt continues to grow as 1) the 494-unit University Square Apartments opens up, allowing Westway and Lakeside Drive to be cut through; 2) Springhill Lake Apartments, adding 176 units during the year for a total of 2,668, petitions for commercial zoning motel and office complex on 30-acre tract in northwest Greenbelt; 3) construction starts for additions to North End and Center schools; and (4) high rising Charlestown North apartments, with 178 units, opens near the southern end of Greenbelt Lake.

- Edgar L. Smith receives high vote of 70 percent in September city council election, leading a ticket composed of incumbents Francis White, Richard Pilski, William Hoff, and Gerald Gough to victory in a field of eight. Smith subsequently elected mayor by his colleagues for a third term.

- City of Greenbelt loses its appeal to have the Charlestowne Village covenant with Bresler declared enforceable when the Maryland Court of Appeals rules that although the covenants were legal and valid, the city had failed to seek compliance within time limits specified by contract. At same time, court overturns lower court decision, ruling that agreement calling for Bresler donation of 3.3 acres to city for parkland was valid and remanding case back to lower court for a hearing on its merits.



TOP STORIES continued from page 7

to the project in a letter to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). While early EIS information meetings were poorly attended, crowds grew as area residents became aware of the proposal. The principal organized citizen opposition named Stop This Train held a late November informational meeting at ERHS. One member calculates that each of two alternative proposed routes through Greenbelt would impact more than 900 homes. At that meeting, the state senator and delegates representing Greenbelt pledged to find a way to stop the proposal. The EIS will not be completed for another year, the SCMaglev would not be built for at least seven years.

Greenbelters Look Skyward At Total and Partial Eclipse

Greenbelters joined much of the rest of the country and looked at the solar eclipse on August 21. While many people travelled to the full-eclipse zone, those viewing the partial or 80 percent level in Greenbelt were not disappointed. Viewing parties brought people together for a phenomenal day. Some residents used solar projectors that they had built at the MakerSpace for indirect viewing. The projector showed the crescent sun on paper. Others used colanders to create more shadows and track the sun. The direct approach required looking at the sun using eclipse glasses.



PHOTO BY AARON MARCAVITCH

Eclipse viewers

Some people travelled within Greenbelt, going to Goddard Space Flight Center’s Visitor Center where NASA supplied many free pairs of eclipse glasses. Others went to parties in Northway Fields and in backyards and courts around town.

Greenbelters Rally to Protest Local and National Issues

Greenbelters demonstrated hair-trigger responses to perceived threats. It is a brave provocateur who beards the Greenbelt lion. Success in defeating unwanted initiatives locally was, alas, overshadowed by an inability to sway events on a broader scale.

National Action

During 2017, Greenbelters participated in several national-scale marches that protested actual or prospective Trump administration changes affecting concerns held dear by residents.

Greenbelters turned out in force for the Women’s March on January 21 to protest against the newly-installed president’s actions

See TOP STORIES, page 11

To Our Greenbelt Friends & Neighbors

Happy New Year

May 2018 Be Peaceful
Productive & Prosperous

Leta and Darrell Mach

Stop the SCMAGLEV Train Public Information Day

Saturday January 20, 2018, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Greenbelt Fire Station at 125 Crescent Road

Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) Inc. has proposed the construction and operation of a high-speed superconducting magnetic levitation (SCMAGLEV) train system between Baltimore and Washington D.C. There are no stops in our County.

The three routes proposed will impact Bowie, Laurel, and Greenbelt. We oppose the entire project. Trees, wildlife habitat, green space, and property values are at risk.

Come learn how the train could impact your community.

Contact Brian or Donna Almquist for information at: GreenbeltAdvocates.ESJ@gmail.com

Paid for by Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery
December 14, 4:25 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. A woman walking to a building on Edmonston Terrace was followed by a man she first observed near the Shell Food Mart in the 9100 block Breezewood Drive near Cherrywood Lane. When she entered the building he followed her inside, produced a knife and announced a robbery. He stabbed her after obtaining jewelry and money and fled on foot. The woman was transported to UM Prince George’s Hospital Center with non-life threatening injuries. The man is described as black, wearing a black Helly Hansen jacket, dark blue jeans and a black hat.

Assault
December 16, 2:40 p.m., 6100 block Greenbelt Road. A woman left Target and was walking to her vehicle when two women in a parked car began yelling at her. They then exited their vehicle and assaulted her by punching her and pulling her hair. They then fled in a vehicle described as a blue Nissan truck bearing Maryland tags. The woman refused treatment for minor injuries.

Theft
December 20, 12:40 p.m., 100 block Hedgewood Drive. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

Fraud
December 20, 11:09 a.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. A woman used a social media site to sell furniture. The buyer sent the seller a check for both the furniture and shipping. The seller was told to cash the check and wire the remainder of the money back for the buyer to use for shipping. The seller did

this and discovered later that the check she deposited was counterfeit.

Burglary
December 16, 1 a.m., 7400 block Morrison Drive. A laptop computer was taken from a residence undergoing renovation after entry was made by breaking out a front window. The residence was entered again later the same day but no property was taken this time.

Vandalism
December 18, 12:30 p.m., 99 Centerway. A marker was used to place graffiti on the front door of the Youth Center on December 15.

Vehicle Crime
Two vehicles were stolen. A green 1996 Ford Explorer SUV with Md. tags 4DB1498 was taken from Breezewood Drive near Springhill Lane on December 14. A black 4-door 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt with Md. tags 9BD1925 was stolen from the 9100 block Edmonston Road on December 18.

A red 1994 Honda Accord reported stolen December 9 from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive was recovered December 14 by Hyattsville City police in the 5600 block Jamestown Road.

Two attempted thefts occurred, one of which was in the 7800 block Mandan Road where rims and tires were the target. The other attempt was in the 8000 block Mandan Road, where a window was broken out but nothing was taken. Also in the 8000 block Mandan Road two thefts occurred when windows were broken in two vehicles and an in-dash stereo was taken from one and a jacket and several pairs of sneakers were taken from the other.

AGENDA from page 1

plans be lowered significantly and that revised review regulations be formulated to ensure that municipalities have a role in the review of all development proposals within the city, particularly site plans.

The letter further requests that towers, monopoles and small cell antennas be limited to public rights-of-way and public utility easements in single family zones. However, property owned by the county and the school board is exempt from zoning, as are city facilities, so such development on these properties would not be banned.

The county planning board envisions that the countywide map amendment process be implemented sometime after the adoption of the zoning ordinance itself. Until the adoption of the zoning map, the District Council (the county council when sitting on zoning matters) will have to use alternative zoning options as part of a decision tree when considering development proposals. The city again called for adopting the zoning map amendment process concurrently with the adoption of the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. Whether or not this request is granted, the city also asked to be part of the mapping exercise to locate proposed new zones within the city.

The city also requested greater municipal involvement in determining that adequate public facilities (such as police, transportation and recreation) exist and objected to the draft ordinance’s provision this determination would become a county administrative function, eliminating the public review process currently in place.

Voting Age
Council introduced for first reading legislation to lower the voting age in municipal elections to 16 and to establish a minimum age of 18 for candidates for city council. As is usual, there was no vote or discussion at this stage. The resolution is expected to be introduced for second reading and final passage at council’s January 8, 2018 regular meeting.



WEBSITE continued from page 7



New Greenbelt Recreation Department logo

usage of this logo.

Petitions and Requests
Nonresident Kevin Mottus told council about the efforts he and others are making to try to get regulatory agencies to look further into the possible impacts of cell towers on people living near them. He called for a moratorium on the roll-out of 5G capabilities and for testing of new frequencies prior to implementation.

Theodora Scaroto sought support for legislation requiring public notice and hearings on proposed future cell towers on school grounds. Having heard complaints from neighbors who support development of 5G capabilities because they currently get poor reception in their homes,

she stated that the answer is not to install more towers but instead to go back to landline telephones. She called upon council to support efforts to require telephone companies to maintain their copper landlines.

Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that council had received a letter from Charlestowne Village Condominiums asking the city to consider speed humps on Lakecrest Drive to help reduce dangerous speeding.

Other Actions
Acting Chief Thomas Kemp reported that the police department’s “No Shave November” raised \$1,692 for cancer awareness.

Council accepted the resignation of Lauren Young from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, effective December 1.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA
GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, January 4, 2018
GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- GDC Closed Session- Begins @ 7:00 p.m.**
 - Contract for Removing Asbestos Caulk around Glass Blocks at Building Entrances
- GHI Closed Session – Follows the GDC Board Meeting**
 - Approve Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting Held on December 7, 2017
 - Proposed Contracts for the 2018-2020 Phases of the Homes Improvement Program - 1st reading
 - Contract for the Repair for a Unit - 1st reading
- GHI Open Session- Begins @ 7:30 p.m.**
 - Approve Minutes of the Special Open Session Meeting Held on December 7, 2017
 - Approve Minutes of the Regular Open Session Meeting Held on December 7, 2017
 - Request by the GHI Bicycle Committee to be Designated as a Standing Committee
 - Request by a Member to Install a Fence
 - Request by a Member to Purchase an Abandoned Boiler Room to be used for Storage Space.
 - Architecture Review Committee's Re-evaluation of GHI rules for Doors
 - Proposed Agenda for the Special Membership Meeting on February 8, 2018



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop



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American Legion Post 136



New Year’s Eve Party

The Greenbelt and surrounding communities are invited to join the American Legion Family at 6900 Greenbelt Rd. celebrating New Year’s Eve with a fantastic evening of music, dancing, champagne and breakfast. The popular **Eight Balls Band** returns to rock the party with tunes from the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$45 per couple in advance. \$30 at the door. Call 301-345-0136 for tickets.



The Eight Balls
music from the
60’s 70’s 80’s

**Champagne at
midnight then
breakfast**

**Tickets: \$25 each
\$45 per couple in
advance. \$30 at
the door.**

Call 301-345-0136

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LAWN AND ORDER would like to thank the Greenbelt Community for another successful season! For those Greenbelt residents who demonstrated their great taste & economic savvy by using Lawn & Order over the past season, I appreciate your loyalty & look forward to hopefully serving you again in 2018. Dennis

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BUYING JUNK from basements, garages, attics, self-storage. Robert, 240-515-4700

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LEAVES BLOWN TO CURB – Most Greenbelt homes front & back yards will be reasonably priced. 301-213-3273

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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 8 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$9.80 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$14.70). Rates effective 1/1/18. Deadline 4 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 8 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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NEW LISTING! 8 Woodland Way- Single family GHI! Only 4 of this model in the coop. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, refinished hardwood floors, gas fireplace, new AC and roof, custom built ins, new kitchen floor, large patio and deck, new shed, wooded backyard, and multi car driveway ! \$359,000

NEW LISTING! 9 C Southway- Completely renovated 2 bedroom with large family room addition! New siding, windows, carpet, tile, and more! Large shed and deck and adjacent to park. A must see! \$159,000 **UNDER CONTRACT**

NEW LISTING! 2 D Northway- 2 bedroom brick with new flooring, refinished hardwood floors, new granite counter tops, remodeled kitchen. Great location and garage available in court! \$181,000

TOP STORIES continued from page 8



PHOTO BY REBECCA OSS!

Greenbelters at the Women's March on Washington.

and policies related to misogyny and racism. A sister march coinciding with similar demonstrations worldwide, was held the same day in Roosevelt Center.

Greenbelters – especially many resident scientists – mobilized in May for the Science March to protest the administration’s position on global change and environmental regulation.

High-Rise Goes Down

In January, Greenbelters campaigned to stop a 25-story building next to the Lakeside North apartments. Petitions were lodged with the city and letters zinged into the News Review’s in-box despite the project remaining at the proposal stage. On February 13, council unanimously opposed both the project and any zoning changes that would permit it.

Tower Trumped

A plan for a 105-foot tall cell phone tower at Eleanor Roosevelt High School by a partnership between Prince Georges County Public Schools (PGCPS) and a communications company was abandoned after rancorous meetings. Hackles were raised by an apparent fait accompli that profited PGCPS without offering reasonable opportunity for citizen consultation.

2018 Zoning Rewrite

Another ongoing controversy bridging to 2018 is the Prince George’s county zoning rewrite which threatens to allow higher-density development in Greenbelt. The News Review will be watching.

Voting Age in Greenbelt
It ain't over 'til it's over.

And it isn't over. But it's so close to being over that we couldn't let another year go by without naming as a "Top Story" the professionalism and perseverance of Ema Smith, Findley Holland, Julia Sharapi, Hunter Whaples and all the other members, past and present, of the city's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) who over the years contributed to what appears soon to become a revision to the City Charter to lower the minimum voting age to 16 for Greenbelt's municipal elections.

Getting to this point has taken a long time. The YAC submitted a report to the city council in July 2015 recommending that 16- and 17-year-olds be allowed to vote in city elections. A year later Ema Smith, chair of YAC, and other members of the committee came to a city council meeting to inquire about the status of their 2015 report. A question on the Community Questionnaire at the 2015 election received a negative response from voters on lowering the voting age, but a subsequent review by the Advisory Committee on Education and the Community Relations Advisory Board resulted in endorsements from both groups.

At another meeting in July of this year, YAC members urged

MAGLEV continued from page 8

Harrison also asked where money for the project was coming from other than the loan commitment from the Japanese bank. Henley said the Federal Railway Administration had authorization to make low-interest loans up to \$30 billion of which \$5 billion had been authorized. The remainder could be available to fund this project.

Councilmember Mary Lehman represents the north county including Laurel. She said she was offended by the statement that being underground would not have impact. She sought more information about how BWRR obtained the right to eminent domain.

Henley said the Maryland Public Service Commission had conducted public hearings across the state during a year-long process.

Lehman said she would seek legislation to remove that power. She also noted that the Baltimore-Washington Parkway is


national parkland and that those alternate routes would also run through the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge.

Davis closed the meeting by noting that this subject would be back for council consideration in the new year. As yet, this subject has not been placed on a county council meeting agenda for formal consideration or action.

New Year's Eve Event
At American Legion

Greenbelt and surrounding communities are invited to join the American Legion Family at 6900 Greenbelt Road celebrating New Year's Eve with a fantastic evening of music, dancing, champagne and breakfast. The popular Eight Balls Band returns to rock the party with tunes from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Tickets are obtainable in advance or at the door. See ad for pricing. Call 301-345-0136 for tickets.

Wishing you every happiness
this holiday season and
throughout the coming year



Emmett V. Jordan
Greenbelt City Council - Mayor

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2-Story Addition - GHI townhome with lots of space. Completely remodeled throughout with new cabinets, counters, tub surr. & more. **\$159,900**

Large Corner Lot 3BR Townhome with one of the largest yards in GHI. Completely updated with granite counters, hardwood flooring & more.

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Chelsea Woods 2 bedroom condo - carpeting and appliances replaced in last 5 years. New windows have been replaced. Lots of parking! **\$129,000**

GHI 1-Bedroom End Unit Private stairway leads to this remodeled townhome with NEW doors, windows, siding and baseboard heating. Nice! **\$79,900**

Fenced Corner Lot Backs to protected woods. Hardwood floors throughout, refinished hardwood flooring, new opened kitchen & more. **\$105,900**

Estate Sale Remodeled 2-bedroom GHI townhome in Greenbelt with new appliances, hardwood floors and more. Ceramic-tiled bath. **\$119,900**

Two Story Addition Large corner lot with 16'x17' deck that backs to protected woodlands. Addition- 10'x17' BR upstairs & family room on main level.

3 Bedroom Townhome Walk to Roosevelt Center. Hardwood floors throughout. Ceiling fans and pull down attic stairs. Fenced front & back yards.

Large Corner Lot Freshly renovated by GHI. One car with garden area and shed. New kitchen w/dishwasher & lots of cabinets. **\$129,900**

Brick Townhome 3 bedroom GHI townhome w/ fenced backyard. Washer and dryer on bedroom level for easy use. Value-priced at \$156,900!

1 BR - Upper Level Remodeled Ceramic-tiled bathroom. Opened kitchen with extra space. Freshly painted through. Two window a/c's included.

Spacious Addition Large corner lot with full bathroom and family/bedroom addition. Hardwood floors, tiled throughout with modern kitchen, too!

Brick Townhome on Corner Lot 3 Bedroom with one of the best yards in the city. Hardwood floors, bath, paint and refinished hardwood floors.

Fenced Corner Lot 2 Bedroom GHI townhome w/ large lot & spacious shed. Remodeled throughout with opened kitchen & more. **\$136,000**

Two Additions 2 Bedroom GHI home with front addit. & full bath on main level. Rear family room addition opens onto large deck & wooded backyard.

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center

TOP STORIES continued from page 11

council to adopt a resolution to make the change rather than putting the issue on the ballot as a referendum question. Some councilmembers expressed a reluctance to make the decision themselves and favored a question on the ballot. At a vote taken at the August regular council meeting, only three councilmembers supported introducing a charter amendment to change the age, while the other four voted instead to hand the matter over to the voters. A slim margin of 145 votes prevailed, which was enough for the city council to decide to move ahead.

The resolution has been introduced for first reading and will be acted upon at the January 8 council meeting. Even assuming a positive vote, it still won't be over. When will it be over?

If council adopts the resolution on January 8, it will be effective 50 days later, unless it is petitioned to another voter referendum within 40 days of the adoption of the resolution. That would require a petition signed by at least 20 percent of the registered voters in Greenbelt, about 2,700 signatures. Likely to happen? Nope. But it ain't over 'til it's over.

County Zoning Rewrite

Although some of its deadlines have slipped and the end is not yet in sight, the Prince George's County Planning Department has made progress on the comprehensive rewrite of the County Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations over the last year. At this time last year, the analysis of the comments for Module 1 had just been completed. Earlier this month, public comments on the entire Comprehensive Review Draft were submitted. This progress represents a great deal of work on the part of county planning staff, especially Project Manager Chad Williams and his team, which in turn has generated a good deal of work for municipal planning departments, including Greenbelt's.

Projected dates are now running about a year behind those originally presented, but it will not be long before the project is delivered to the county council, which acts as the district council on zoning and land-use matters. As to the schedule going forward, Williams has said he expects analysis of the latest round of comments on the draft will be completed by early February 2018, with the legislative draft ready for the county council by early spring. It is likely the council will not take action until October 2018. The countywide map amendment would then be adopted in 2019. Since the new zoning ordinance will not take effect until the map amendment is adopted, public hearings will be held in conjunction with that event, and there will be an appeals process available when the map is released.

For the most part, the county has been very responsive to the city's comments, as well as being appreciative for the contributions made by the city planning staff. That is not to say, however, that the city council and staff do not have serious issues with some of the decisions being made. One concern has been assuring that municipalities will have a recognized role in the application review process, which initially was reduced in efforts to streamline the process. The other major issue that continues to loom is that the longstanding RPC Zone that has provided some protection for historic Greenbelt will be eliminated prior to any approval for a replacement Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone or at least a Legacy RPC Zone or other form of agreement to bridge the gap. The city council is serious about fixing this problem, so watch this space to see how this story turns out.

T-Rex Comes to Greenbelt

In January, the Greenbelt City Council welcomed representatives from T-Rex, an information technology company that moved its corporate offices and one of its production centers to the former Commerce Center II and III office buildings on Ora Glen Drive. T-Rex does contract work for nine federal agencies and various corporations, and holds a \$900 million five-year contract with the U.S. Census Bureau to develop an interactive online process for the 2020 Census. The company expects to eventually have at least 500 employees in Greenbelt.

T-Rex is a certified HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) small business, which gives it preferential access to federal contracting opportunities. The HUBZone program is designed to provide economic development and jobs to low income communities, and requires that participating businesses maintain a principal office in a HUBZone and have at least 35 percent of employees who are residents of a HUBZone. Although the new T-Rex offices do not lie within a HUBZone, the company has other facilities in College Park and in Jacksonville, Fla., that do. T-Rex has teamed with Streetwise Partners to offer a skills training and mentoring program that will likely lead to good jobs or advancement opportunities for participants at the company or elsewhere.

Greenbelt Shop with a Cop Sends Shoppers on Spree

by Sue Krofchik

Imagine being given a \$200 gift card to buy Christmas presents for your family. This really did happen on December 16 when 25 kids from Springhill Lake Elementary School participated in Shop with a Cop at the Greenbelt Target store.

Sponsored by the Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #32, the annual event, now in its 11th year, focuses on children whose families are facing particular financial needs. Shop with a Cop allows them to have a special Christmas otherwise not possible. Members of the Platinum Rollers Motorcycle Club, biking enthusiasts who support benevolent causes, joined Greenbelt Police Department officers and civilian staff who volunteered their time to make this day one to be remembered.

Once antlers were in place and pictures taken, each shopper and their cop took off, going up and down the aisles. Where do you want to go first was the most frequently-asked question. Clothes and toys quickly filled carts, but retired chief of police James Craze declared, "They all end up here" in electronics, as he helped Dennis look for a video game for him and his dad.

Jason got a scarf for mom, hat for dad, and a doll and action figures for siblings. Janae shopped for her mom, twin sister and brother. Language was no barrier to shopping for siblings Franklin and Frances and their partner MPO Carlos Torres, since all spoke Spanish.

Shop with a Cop brought out the force, from recruit Colin Giardini, currently two months away from completing the police academy and reporting to Greenbelt, through the ranks to Interim Chief Thomas Kemp. Giardini was impressed with how his shopper, Steven, selected gifts for his family before getting anything for himself. Officer Konetta Brown experienced her first Shop with a Cop last year and described it as amazing, saying then she would be back. Sure enough, she was here last year, spotted with two youngsters headed toward clothing.

Target front-end supervisor Aaliyah Henderson had a set of registers reserved for these special shoppers and a rest area in which to wait for the others to finish. "I always look forward to it," she said, adding that she is proud of how Target gives back to the community.

The day's next destination was the Greenbelt Fire Department, where Michelle Moo-Young, administrative assistant, organized a lunch that included over 20 box-



PHOTO BY GEORGE MATHEWS

Officers Konetta Brown (left) and Yomayra Rodriguez had a great time helping kids shop for their families.

es of pizzas, donated by Three Brothers Italian Restaurant. Between bites, gifts were wrapped and readied to take home and hide until Christmas.

MPO Michael Apgar is president of Greenbelt FOP Lodge #32, which sponsors Shop with a Cop. SGT Scott Kaiser is the department's program coordinator.



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